



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1307.4 - South Australian Economic Indicators, May 2004

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Summary

Main Features

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication provides an up-to-date overview of the South Australian economy and contrasts the State's performance with that of the Australian economy. It provides details of movements in a range of economic and social indicators.

OVERVIEW

The data in this Overview are presented in trend terms, unless otherwise stated.

Included in this overview are Statistical Summary tables showing comparisons between South Australia and Australia for a variety of economic and social indicators. Also included is a State Summary, showing the performance of all States and Territories for selected indicators.

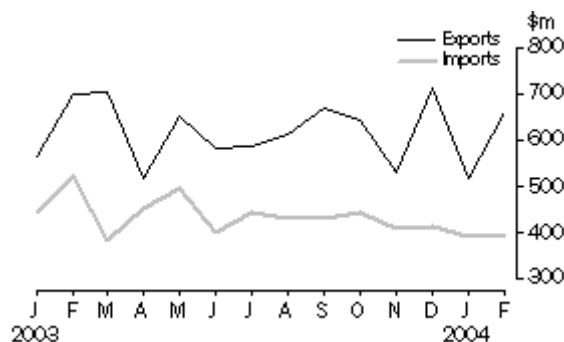
Further detail on all the indicators shown below can be obtained by accessing the latest Data Cube attached to this publication. This Data Cube is available within the **Related Links** section at the bottom of this page.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The value of South Australian merchandise exports (in original terms) for the month of February 2004 was \$660.7m. This was an increase of 27.8% from the previous month and 5.8% less than the value of exports in February 2003 (\$701.1m).

The value of South Australian merchandise imports (in original terms) for February 2004 was \$395.8m. This was an increase of 0.8% from the \$392.8m recorded in January 2004 and 24.2% less than the February 2003 figure of \$522.2m.

Merchandise Exports and Imports

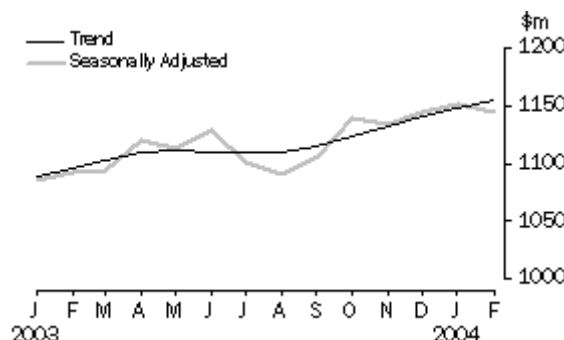


- See **International Merchandise Imports, Australia (Timeseries, cat. no. 5439.0)**, **International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia (cat. no. 5368.0)**

CONSUMPTION AND INVESTMENT

Retail Turnover continued its steady increase, with a positive movement of 0.5% from January 2004 (\$1,148.8m) to \$1,155.0m in February 2004. In the twelve month period from February 2003, total retail turnover increased by 5.4% from \$1,095.4m.

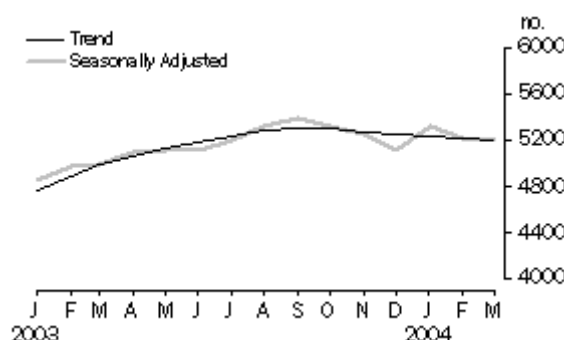
Retail Turnover



- See **Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)**

March 2004 saw a total of 5,204 new motor vehicle sales - a decrease of 0.2% on the previous month's figure of 5,215 vehicles. However, the March figure is 4.3% higher than the new vehicles sales recorded in March 2003 (4,991).

New Motor Vehicle Sales

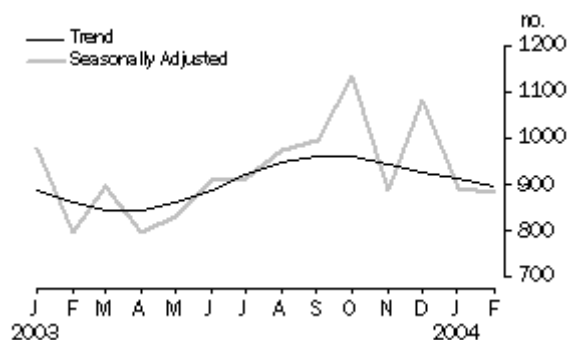


- See **Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia (cat. no. 9314.0.55.001)**

HOUSING

In February 2004 the estimated total number of dwelling units approved in South Australia was 897, slightly lower than January 2004 (914) however this was 36 more than the 861 recorded in February 2003.

Dwelling Units Approved

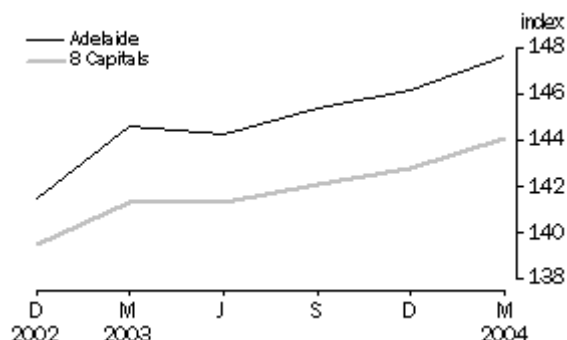


- See **Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0)**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The all groups consumer price index in Adelaide for the March quarter 2004 was 147.7, an increase of 2.1% on the level recorded for the same period in 2003 and up 1.0% on the December quarter 2003.

Consumer Price Index

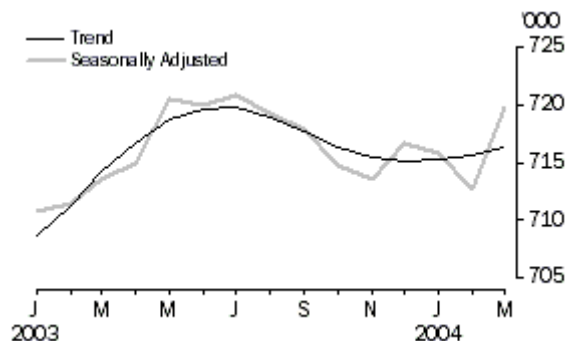


- See **Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)**

LABOUR FORCE AND DEMOGRAPHY

The estimate of employed persons in South Australia was 716,300 in March 2004, slightly lower than the peak in July 2003 (719,800) and similar to the level of twelve months ago (714,200). The total number of persons employed full-time in South Australia was 487,400 in March 2004, lower than the March 2003 estimate of 503,300.

Employed Persons



The estimate of the unemployment rate for South Australia was 6.5% in March 2004 and was higher than the March 2003 estimate of 6.2%. The estimate of the participation rate in South Australia was 61.5% in March 2004 compared to 61.7% in March 2003, lower than the most recent peak of 62.1% in June 2003.

Current prices trend (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	8,744	1.3	5.3	119,673	1.8	6.5	7.3	
Chain volume measures trend (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	8,366	0.8	3.4	116,240	1.6	5.4	7.2	1
Private gross fixed capital formation									
Current prices trend (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	2,887	0.6	15.4	43,382	3.6	12.5	6.7	
Chain volume measures trend (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	2,849	0.1	14.6	42,244	2.9	10.4	6.7	1
Compensation of employees									
Current prices trend (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	5,943	0.2	3.5	93,901	1.0	5.3	6.3	
International accounts									
Exports (\$m)	Feb 04	660.7	27.8	-5.8	8,389.9	6.2	-7.4	7.9	2
Imports (\$m)	Feb 04	395.8	0.8	-24.2	9,452.4	-4.9	-7.6	4.2	2
Consumption and investment									
Retail turnover									
Current prices original (\$m)	Feb 04	1,032.7	-10.3	8.1	14,334.4	-9.0	11.6	7.2	3
Current prices trend (\$m)	Feb 04	1,155.0	0.5	5.4	15,809.2	0.3	8.4	7.3	3
Chain volume measures original (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	3,719.3	19.4	12.4	51,213.2	17.7	13.2	7.3	3
New motor vehicle sales									
Original (no.)	Mar 04	5,561	9.9	8.0	86,046	13.4	13.1	6.5	4
Trend (no.)	Mar 04	5,204	-0.2	4.3	78,521	0.5	6.1	6.6	4
Private new capital expenditure									
Current prices original (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	1,075	10.6	-7.2	13,778	8.0	-4.3	7.8	5
Current prices trend (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	991	-5.1	5.5	13,088	0.8	5.0	7.6	5
Private new capital expenditure (\$m)	2002-03	4,020	29.1	..	51,093	15.1	..	7.9	5
Tourist accommodation takings (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	68.3	12.9	5.2	1,499.3	9.2	14.1	4.6	6
Production									
Dwelling unit approvals									
Original (no.)	Feb 04	826	19.4	10.7	13,732	15.4	5.4	6.0	7
Trend (no.)	Feb 04	897	-1.8	4.2	14,301	-1.5	2.0	6.3	7
Dwelling units commenced (no.)	Dec qtr 03	2,776	9.2	1.3	46,696	6.6	4.7	5.9	8
Value of non-residential building approvals- trend (\$m)	Feb 04	75.2	-17.1	-2.5	1,206.9	-3.2	-8.2	6.2	7
Value of total building activity									
Commenced (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	985.4	40.9	32.7	14,090.1	9.4	5.0	7.0	8
Work done (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	750.3	11.7	23.4	13,844.8	8.0	13.4	5.4	8
Work yet to be done (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	1,406.3	27.9	41.2	22,562.3	4.7	14.6	6.2	8
Value of engineering construction work done (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	436.4	-1.1	-11.8	6,960.5	11.7	10.5	6.3	9

Manufacturing production									
Red meat trend (tonnes)	Dec qtr 03	54,882	-1.3	-12.3	729,760	0.2	-7.7	7.5	11
Mineral exploration expenditure (other than for petroleum) (\$m)	Dec qtr 03	9.6	3.2	-4.0	199.5	11.0	3.5	4.8	12

STATISTICAL SUMMARY Part 2

Indicator	Period	South Australia			Australia					
		Number	% change from		Number	% change from			SA as a % of Australia	Source index
			Previous period	Same period previous year		Previous period	Same period previous year			
Prices (a)										
CPI- All groups (index no.)	Mar qtr 04	147.7	1.0	2.1	144.1	0.9	2.0	..	13	
Price index of materials used in house building (index no.)	Mar qtr 04	138.3	0.7	1.5	134.4	0.6	2.7	..	14	
Price index of materials used in building other than houses (index no.)	Mar qtr 04	126.1	0.3	1.9	126.9	0.2	2.3	..	14	
Price index of established houses (index no.)	Dec qtr 03	220.4	6.4	24.2	245.1	6.0	18.9	..	15	
Price index of project homes (index no.)	Dec qtr 03	164.9	2.6	6.0	153.7	1.7	7.9	..	15	
Labour force and demography										
Population (resident at end qtr) ('000)	Sep qtr 03	1,529.4	0.1	0.6	19,941.3	0.3	1.3	7.7	16	
Natural increase of the population ('000)	Sep qtr 03	1.3	-6.1	39.3	27.7	-12.7	12.1	4.8	16	
Labour Force Original ('000)	Mar 04	770.4	0.3	0.7	10,228.3	0.2	1.3	7.5	17	
Trend ('000)	Mar 04	766.1	0.0	0.6	10,190.8	0.1	0.9	7.5	17	
Employed persons Original ('000)	Mar 04	724.0	1.9	0.9	9,626.8	0.9	2.0	7.5	17	
Trend ('000)	Mar 04	716.3	0.1	0.3	9,608.8	0.1	1.5	7.5	17	
Participation rate Original (b) (%)	Mar 04	61.9	0.2	-0.1	63.8	0.1	-0.2	..	17	
Trend (b) (%)	Mar 04	61.5	0.0	-0.2	63.6	0.1	-0.3	..	17	
Unemployment rate Original (b) (%)	Mar 04	6.0	-1.5	-0.2	5.9	-0.7	-0.7	..	17	
Trend (b) (%)	Mar 04	6.5	-0.1	0.3	5.7	0.0	-0.5	..	17	
Job vacancies ('000)	Feb 04	5.5	37.6	-21.9	105.7	0.0	-5.0	5.2	18	
Industrial disputes ('000 working days lost)	Dec 03	0.3	-62.5	-40.0	37.7	-0.5	97.4	0.8	19	
Income										
Average weekly earnings (full-time; ordinary time) Original (\$)	Nov qtr 03	867.80	0.5	6.0	938.40	0.9	5.5	..	20	

Trend (\$)	Nov qtr 03	867.10	0.2	5.3	939.60	1.1	5.6	..	20
Wage cost index (total hourly rate excluding bonuses)									
(c) index no.	Dec qtr 03	123.0	1.2	3.8	122.7	0.9	3.7	..	21
Financial markets									
Secured housing finance (d)									
Original (\$m)	Feb 04	585.0	8.4	15.1	9,026.0	11.9	9.0	6.5	22
Trend (\$m)	Feb 04	628.0	-2.0	13.5	9,896.0	-3.1	10.3	6.3	22
Finance commitments									
Personal (\$m)	Feb 04	389.8	8.0	6.7	5,980.9	5.6	7.7	6.5	23
Commercial (\$m)	Feb 04	983.3	39.6	37.8	18,560.2	7.7	4.6	5.3	23
Lease (\$m)	Feb 04	15.6	26.8	14.7	436.9	20.0	-1.5	3.6	23
Interest rates (b)									
Banks - new housing loans (%)	Mar 04	..	..	..	7.05	0.0	0.50	..	24
Banks - business loans									
Small, medium businesses (e) (%)	Mar 04	..	..	..	8.85	0.0	0.50	..	24
Large business (%)	Mar 04	..	..	..	8.85	0.0	0.50	..	24

(a) Base year of each index 1989-90 = 100.

(b) Change is shown in terms of percentage points.

(c) Base year of index Sep 1997 = 100.

(d) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

(e) Rate for business loans over \$50,000.

STATE SUMMARY

Indicator	Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Source index
SELECTED INDICATORS										
CPI- All groups(a) (index no.)	Mar qtr	145.0	143.5	145.4	147.7	139.6	143.0	139.0	143.9	13
Participation rate trend (%)	Mar 04	62.6	63.2	64.8	61.5	65.7	59.2	71.9	72.0	17
Unemployment rate trend (%)	Mar 04	5.3	5.6	6.3	6.5	5.5	6.8	4.4	3.7	17
Average weekly earnings (full-time adults; ordinary time) trend (\$)	Nov qtr	977.20	948.70	880.80	867.10	941.30	835.00	925.30	1,069.70	20
SELECTED INDICATORS PER HEAD OF POPULATION(b)										
State final demand Chain volume measures trend (c) (\$'000)	Dec qtr	10.1	9.9	9.5	9.2	10.3	8.4	13.8	16.9	1
Retail turnover Current prices original (\$)	Feb 04	728.4	703.5	742.7	675.2	705.4	650.8	686.8	886.9	3
Current prices trend (\$)	Feb 04	804.5	765.6	827.5	755.2	772.3	701.8	796.6	972.1	3
New motor vehicle sales trend (no. per '000 population)	Mar 04	3.8	4.2	4.3	3.4	3.7	2.9	3.7	3.7	4

Private new capital expenditure										
Current prices trend (\$)	Dec qtr	525.1	612.1	595.5	648.0	1,220.1	330.2	2,567.8	452.6	5
Dwelling unit approvals										
Original (no. per '000 population)	Feb 04	0.578	0.686	0.824	0.540	1.023	0.420	0.413	0.670	7
Trend (no. per '000 population)	Feb 04	0.555	0.766	0.925	0.598	1.033	0.479	0.478	0.490	7
Secured housing financed) (\$)	Feb 04	506.2	390.0	477.9	382.5	500.4	244.8	382.6	395.9	22

PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS PERIOD

State final demand										
Chain volume measures trend (c)	Dec qtr	1.2	0.9	3.1	0.6	1.8	2.1	2.0	0.5	1
Retail turnover										
Current prices original	Feb 04	-8.9	-6.7	-11.4	-10.3	-10.2	-8.8	-3.9	-5.0	3
Current prices trend	Feb 04	-0.1	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	-0.2	3
New motor vehicle sales trend	Mar 04	0.4	0.1	1.8	-0.2	0.4	-3.0	3.7	-1.1	4
Private new capital expenditure										
Current prices trend (e)	Dec qtr	-0.9	-1.8	1.6	-5.1	7.2	-7.1	3.2	-6.4	5
Dwelling unit approvals										
Original (%)	Feb 04	42.8	-7.1	7.9	19.4	29.3	1.5	13.9	89.5	7
Trend (%)	Feb 04	-0.1	-1.8	-1.3	-1.8	-0.6	0.2	-1.9	3.6	7
CPI- All groups (%)	Mar qtr	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.7	13
Participation rate trend (e)	Mar 04	0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.0	-0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	17
Unemployment rate trend (e)	Mar 04	-0.9	0.3	0.9	-0.9	-2.0	-0.5	-2.7	-1.5	17
Average weekly earnings (full-time adults;ordinary time) trend	Nov qtr	0.6	1.5	2.2	0.2	1.4	0.2	1.5	0.8	20
Secured housing finance	Feb 04	13.5	2.5	20.8	8.4	12.0	4.9	50.7	12.8	22

(a) Base year of index 1989-90=100.

(b) The latest quarterly estimate of Australian resident population has been used to calculate ratios for subsequent periods.

(c) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2001-02.

(d) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

(e) Change is shown in terms of percentage points.

About this Release

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Provides an up-to-date overview of what has been happening in the South Australian economy and contrasts the state's performance with that of the Australian economy. Provides details of movements in a range of economic indicators and also contains time series information.

Changing to electronic format, from the Feb 2004 release.

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